

REMARKS

The courtesy extended to Joseph J. Catanzaro, applicants' attorney, by Examiner Lien TM Ngo and Supervisory Examiner Jes F. Pasqua during a personal interview which was conducted on Thursday, November 21, 2002 is sincerely appreciated.

During the interview, the outstanding Office Action and the rejections contained therein were fully discussed. In addition, the prior art of record was also fully discussed, particularly U.S. patent nos. 6,179,025 to Sutton, 5,207,254 to Fromm and 6,186,201 to Salz. Mr. Catanzaro proposed amendments to the claims substantially as set forth herein in order to distinguish the present invention over the prior art of record, and particularly the Sutton, Fromm and Salz patents. Although no specific agreement was made as to the precise form of claim amendments which would place this application in condition for allowance, it was generally agreed that the claim amendments as proposed, and substantially as submitted herewith, would receive favorable consideration subject to an updated search. It is respectfully submitted that the claim amendments submitted herewith place this application in condition for allowance. Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's invention relates to a device for carrying articles, such as a handbag, which comprises an enclosure defining a storage space, the enclosure defining at least one compartment which comprises a closure panel for providing access thereto, and the closure panel being pivotably movable toward and away from the enclosure. A functional device for carrying articles and information has at least one wall portion pivotably movable at least between first and second positions, at least one of the positions corresponding to a close condition of the functional device, and the other position corresponding to an open condition

of the functional device, the functional device being removably positionable with respect to the at least one compartment. Mutually magnetically attractable devices are respectively associated with the at least one compartment and the functional device for removably retaining the functional device in position within the at least one compartment by magnetic attractive force, while permitting separation of the functional device from the at least one compartment, whereby pivotable movement of the closure panel of the at least one compartment toward and away from the enclosure causes corresponding pivotable movement of at least the at least one wall of the functional device between close and open conditions of the functional device, and separating at least the at least one wall of the functional device from the compartment reduces the magnetic attractive force therebetween and permits removal of the functional device by lifting the functional device from the compartment.

With regard to the '025 patent to Sutton, the remarks presented in the amendment filed September 23, 2002 are hereby repeated.

The Fromm '254 patent discloses a handbag assembly with separable inner and outer members held together by separable fasteners of the type marketed under the trademark VELCRO®. The Salz '201 patent also discloses a handbag made versatile by removably attaching an inner bag to an outer shell utilizing separable mating hooks and loop type fasteners, i.e., Velcro® brand fasteners. In Fig. 3, the fasteners are disclosed in the form of magnetic tape.

As discussed and agreed to during the aforementioned interview, the present invention relates to a device, for carrying articles, preferably in the form of a handbag, which includes an enclosure defining at least one compartment adapted for retaining a functional device,

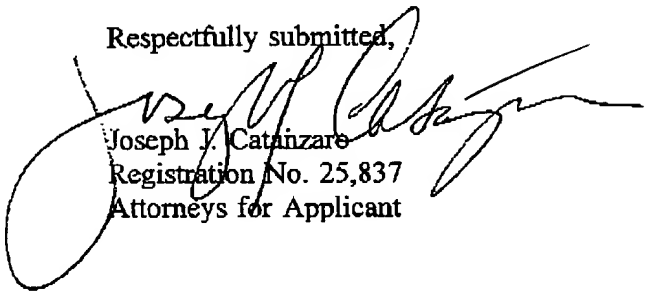
preferably in the form of a wallet, by mutually magnetically attractable devices. Such magnetically attractable devices contemplate respective opposed pairs of such devices, preferably in the form of at least one magnet and one opposed magnet or magnetizable (i.e. ferromagnetic) device. The magnets which are preferred are rare earth type magnets, preferably neodymium magnets.

As also discussed during the interview, when the functional device is positioned within the compartment of the enclosure, at least one pivotable wall portion of the functional device pivotably moves with the adjacent pivotable closure panel of the compartment by mutual magnetic attraction, and when the pivotable wall portion of the functional device is separated from the closure panel, the magnetic attractive force therebetween is reduced, thereby permitting removal by lifting of the functional device out of the compartment. Preferably both wall portions of the wallet are separated from the inner wall of the compartment and the closure panel, respectively, to reduce the respective magnetic forces to permit removal of the wallet from the compartment.

As agreed during the aforementioned interview, none of the prior art references of record disclose or suggest the present invention and features described hereinabove and as recited in the claims, particularly as amended herein, considered individually or in combination, in whole or in part.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of record are in condition for allowance, particularly as amended herein. Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

1) (Twice Amended). A device for carrying articles [or the like] which comprises:

a) an enclosure defining a storage space, said enclosure defining at least one compartment which comprises a closure panel for providing access thereto, said closure panel being pivotably movable toward and away from said enclosure;

b) a functional device for carrying articles and information, said functional device having at least [one closed condition and an open condition and] one wall portion pivotably movable at least between first and second positions, at least one of said positions corresponding to a close condition of said functional device, and the other of said positions corresponding to an open condition of said functional device, said functional device being removably positionable with respect to said at least one compartment [defined by said enclosure]; and

c) mutually magnetically attractable devices respectively associated with said at least one compartment [of said enclosure] and said functional device for removably retaining said functional device in position [with respect to] within said at least one compartment by magnetic attractive force, while permitting separation of said functional device from said at least one compartment, whereby [closing and opening said compartment correspondingly causes closing and opening of said functional device due to said magnetic attractive force] pivotal movement of said closure panel of said at least one compartment toward and away from said enclosure causes corresponding pivotal movement of at least said at least one wall portion of said functional device between close and open conditions of said functional device,

and separating at least said at least one wall portion of said functional device from said compartment reduces the magnetic attractive force therebetween and permits removal of said functional device by lifting said functional device from said compartment.

2) (Twice Amended). The carrying device according to claim 1, [herein] wherein said enclosure is comprised of opposed front and rear walls, opposed side walls, and a bottom wall, said walls defining said storage space.

3) (Unchanged). The carrying device according to claim 2, wherein said mutually magnetically attractable devices comprise at least one magnetic or magnetizable device associated with at least one portion of said compartment and at least one mutually magnetically attractable device associated with at least one portion of said functional device.

4) (Unchanged). The carrying device according to claim 3, wherein said enclosure forms at least part of a handbag.

5) (Twice Amended). The carrying device according to claim 4, wherein said magnetically attractable devices [comprise at least one magnet and at least one magnetically attractable device] are respectively positioned in opposed adjacent relation with each other when said functional device is positioned within said compartment, said magnetically attractable devices for providing magnetic force for separably retaining said functional device in said compartment.

6) (Twice Amended). A handbag which comprises:

a) an enclosure having at least opposed front and rear walls, opposed side walls, and a bottom wall, said walls defining a storage space, said storage space defining at least one compartment having at least one closure panel pivotably movable toward and away from at

least one of said walls between close and open positions to close and open said compartment, respectively;

b) at least one first magnetically attractable device associated with said closure panel; and

c) at least one functional device for carrying articles[,] or information [or the like] and having at least one wall portion pivotably movable at least between close and open positions to close and open said functional device, said at least one wall portion having at least one second magnetically attractable device associated therewith, said at least one wall portion positionable adjacent said closure panel and said at least one first magnetically attractable device associated therewith, whereby said functional device may be separably attached to said compartment by magnetic attractive force of said first and second magnetically attractive devices, [while permitting separation of said functional device away from said compartment] and movement of said closure panel between said close and open positions correspondingly causes corresponding pivotable movement of said at least one wall portion of said functional device to move between said close and open positions, and separating at least said at least one wall portion of said functional device from said closure panel reduces the magnetic attractive force therebetween and permits removal of said functional device by lifting said functional device from said compartment.

18) (Twice Amended). The handbag according to claim 6, [whenever] wherein said functional device renders the appearance of permanent attachment to said compartment.

7) (Twice Amended). A handbag which comprises:

- a) an enclosure having opposed front and rear walls, opposed sidewalls, a bottom wall, and side walls defining a storage space, said storage space defining a compartment accessible through at least one of said walls;
- b) a closure panel associated with said at least one wall and arranged for [pivotal] pivotal movement toward and away from said at least one wall so as to selectively close and open said compartment;
- c) at least one first magnetically attractive device associated with said closure panel; and
- d) a functional device for carrying articles[,] or information [or the like] and arranged for separable positioning within said compartment, said functional device having at least one wall portion movable between close and open positions, said wall portion having associated therewith at least one second magnetically attractable device for removably attaching said functional device within said compartment by positioning said first and second magnetically attractive devices in adjacent magnetically attractive relation so as to develop mutual magnetic attractive force between said [at least one] first and second magnetically attractive devices, whereby pivotal movement of said closure panel toward and away from said at least one wall correspondingly causes said at least one wall portion of said functional device to pivotably move between said close and open positions, and separating at least said at least one wall portion of said functional device from said closure panel reduces the magnetic force therebetween and permits removal of said functional device from said compartment by lifting said functional device therefrom.

- 8) (Unchanged). The handbag according to claim 7, wherein said functional device is an article carrying device.
- 9) (Unchanged). The handbag according to claim 8, wherein said article carrying device is an organizer-type wallet having a plurality of panels positioned therein and spaced apart from each other for separating articles.
- 10) (Unchanged). The handbag according to claim 9, wherein said magnetically attractable devices include at least one rare earth magnet and said opposed mutually magnetically attractable device is a magnet or a magnetizable material capable of being magnetically attracted to said rare earth magnet.
- 11) (Unchanged). The handbag according to claim 10, wherein said rare earth magnet or magnets is a neodymium magnet.
- 12) (Unchanged). The handbag according to claim 8, wherein said article carrying device is a wallet.
- 13) (Unchanged). The handbag according to claim 8, wherein said article carrying device is a mobile phone carrier.
- 14) (Unchanged). The handbag according to claim 8, wherein said article carrying device is a change wallet.
- 15) (Twice Amended). A method of separably attaching a functional device to [an article carrying container such as] a handbag, said [carrying container] handbag having opposed front and rear walls, opposed side walls, said walls defining storage space, said storage space defining at least one compartment having at least one closure panel pivotably movable between respective positions to open and close said compartment, comprising:

- a) providing first magnetically attractive device in association with said at least one [wall portion] closure panel of [the carrying container] said at least one compartment;
- b) providing second magnetically attractive device in association with at least one pivotably movable part of said functional device at a location whereby said functional device may be separably positioned adjacent said at least one [wall portion] closure panel of said [the carrying container] at least one compartment whereby said first and second magnetically attractive devices are positioned in adjacent relation so as to develop magnetically attractive force therebetween to separably attach said functional device to [the] said at least one compartment [carrying container], and pivotable movement of said at least one [wall portion] closure panel [of said carrying container] causes corresponding pivotable movement of said at least one pivotably movable part of said functional device and separating said at least one pivotably movable part of said functional device from said compartment reduces the magnetic force therebetween and permits removal of said functional device from said compartment by lifting said functional device therefrom.

16) Please cancel claim 16 without prejudice.

17) (Twice Amended). A device for carrying articles which comprises:

- a) an enclosure;
- b) a wallet or [change] purse for carrying articles[,] or information, said wallet or purse having at least one portion which is pivotable between close and open positions, said wallet or purse being removably positionable [with respect to] within a compartment defined by said enclosure, said compartment having a closure panel adjacent said wallet or purse and

being pivotably movable between close and open positions respectively toward and away from said enclosure to selectively close and open said compartment; and

c) mutually magnetically attractable devices respectively associated with said closure panel of said compartment and said at least one pivotable portion of said wallet or [change] purse for retaining said wallet or [change] purse in position with respect to said compartment by magnetic attractive force, [while permitting separation of said wallet or change purse from said compartment,] whereby pivotable movement of said closure panel of said compartment between said close and open positions causes corresponding pivotable movement of said at least [a] one pivotable portion of said wallet or [change] purse adjacent thereto, and separating said at least one pivotable portion of said wallet or purse from said closure panel reduces the magnetic force therebetween and permits removal of said wallet or purse by lifting said wallet or purse from said compartment.

19) (New). A device for carrying articles, which comprises:

a) an enclosure in the form of a handbag which defines at least one compartment which is accessible through a closure panel, said closure panel being pivotably movable toward and away from said enclosure;

b) a wallet or purse for carrying articles or information, said wallet or purse having at least one wall portion pivotably movable at least between first and second positions, at least one of said positions corresponding to a close condition of said wallet or purse, and the other of said positions corresponding to an open condition of said wallet or purse, said wallet or purse being removably positionable within said at least one compartment; and

c) mutually magnetically attractable devices respectively associated with said at least one compartment and said closure panel and said wallet or purse for removably retaining said wallet or purse in position within said at least one compartment by magnetic attractive force, while permitting separation of said wallet or purse from said at least one compartment, whereby pivotable movement of said closure panel of said compartment toward and away from said enclosure causes corresponding pivotable movement of said at least one pivotable wall portion of said wallet or purse between close and open conditions of said wallet or purse, and separating said at least one pivotable wall portion of said wallet or purse from said compartment reduces the magnetic attractive force therebetween and permits removal of said wallet or purse by lifting said wallet or purse from said compartment.

20) (New). A handbag for carrying articles, which comprises:

a) an enclosure which defines at least one compartment which is accessible through a closure panel, said closure panel being pivotably movable between close and open positions respectively toward and away from said enclosure and said at least one compartment having a fixed wall portion;

b) a wallet for carrying articles, said wallet having at least two wall portions pivotably movable at least between first and second positions, at least one of said positions corresponding to a close condition of said wallet, and the other of said positions corresponding to an open condition of said wallet, said wallet being removably positionable within said at least one compartment; and

c) mutually magnetically attractable devices respectively positioned on said fixed wall portion of said at least one compartment and said closure panel and on said at least two

wall portions of said wallet for removably retaining said wallet in position within said at least one compartment by magnetic attractive force, while permitting separation of said wallet from said at least one compartment, whereby pivotable movement of said closure panel of said compartment toward and away from said enclosure causes corresponding pivotable movement of at least one of said pivotable wall portions of said wallet between close and open conditions of said wallet, and separating said at least two wall portions of said wallet from said fixed wall of said compartment and said closure panel, respectively, reduces the magnetic attractive force therebetween and permits removal of said wallet or purse by lifting said wallet or purse from said compartment.

21. (New). The handbag according to claim 20, wherein said mutually magnetically attractable devices are respectively provided in pairs, one of said devices being associated with a wall portion of said wallet, and the other of said devices being associated with the respective wall portion or closure panel of said compartment.

22. (New). The handbag according to claim 21, wherein at least one of each said pairs of mutually magnetically attractable devices is a rare earth magnet.

23. (New). The handbag according to claim 22, wherein each said pair of magnetically attractable devices are rare earth magnets, and each said rare earth magnet is a neodymium magnet.